

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

(In association with R.S.P.C.A. England) Patroness: LADY Y.P. McNEICE



FRIENDS for LIFE

13th March 2007

Forum Editor,
Straits Times Press

Dear Sir,

GIVE THE HUMANE APPROACH A CHANCE – SAVE LIVES, STERILISE!

I refer to the letter “Active citizenry? Bring back cat-rehab scheme” (Dr. Tan Chek Wee, 9th March). The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) agrees wholeheartedly with Dr. Tan that the Government should reconsider this approach. In fact the SPCA has written repeatedly to the Ministry of National Development to ask that this worthwhile scheme be reinstated. Whilst sterilisation gets to the root cause of the overpopulation by eliminating breeding, it allows the cats to live out their lives.

For many years now, the SPCA has promoted sterilisation as an effective method of reducing the stray cat population; since 1991, our voucher programme for stray cat sterilisation has translated into thousands of surgeries on stray cats being sponsored by the SPCA.

Over the years our budget per month has more than doubled. With the special rates granted to our organization by participating veterinary clinics (whose kind assistance we are very grateful for), we are able to sponsor the cost of approximately 140 operations every month. We thank our donors whose funding has made this possible. The contribution by the cat-caregivers in looking after the cats and arranging the transportation to and from the surgeries must be applauded.

We are encouraged to read in Dr. Tan’s letter that the number of tipped-ear community cats appears to be increasing. But with 13,000 cats destroyed annually in Singapore, what is yet to be achieved is considerable – only with the Government’s help can we melt the iceberg, not just chip away at the tip. We encourage citizens to write in their views to the Ministry of National Development in support of sterilisation - the more humane way to reduce our stray population.

For more information on SPCA’s voucher programme for strays, visit http://www.spca.org.sg/help_us/strays.asp

Deirdre Moss (Ms.)
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SPCA